

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 48 of 1876.

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR

The Week ending the 11th November 1876.

THE *Howrah Hitakarí*, of the 29th October, after having commented on the late report of Dr. Payne, the Health Officer of Calcutta, writes that, in order to prevent infant mortality in this country, the Government would do well to ask the authorities of the Medical Department to provide for giving native nurses instruction in midwifery. The absence of midwives, instructed in the English system, is widely felt by the people.

HOWRAH HITAKARI,
October 29th, 1876.

2. In an article headed, "Native Judicial Officers," the *Sádhárani*, of the 29th October, writes thus:—The majority of judicial officers think their duty is done, if they administer justice in accordance with the laws enacted by the Legislative Council, without any regard to their merits or demerits. They have no independent views. They blindly follow the Acts, which are rained down, as it were, almost every week by the legislative body. If, in enacting laws, those who are thoroughly acquainted with the state of the country were consulted, and the views of the public were duly regarded, there would have been very little harm in being implicitly guided by the laws; but as they are oftentimes framed by men who come newly from England, and are consequently ignorant of the real condition of the country and of the manners and customs of the people, it must prove a failure to be blindly guided by them. The courts were not founded only for the purpose of administering justice according to established laws. The legislators of every country acknowledge that human laws are full of errors.

SÁDHARANI,
October 29th, 1876.

3. The *Sambád Bháskar*, of the 30th October, comments, in very strong terms, on the Resolution of the Lieutenant-Governor on the memorial of Nayan Tárá Choudhurani, the respectable widow of a rich zemindar of Chittagong, against Mr. Kirkwood.

SAMBAD BHASKAR,
October 30th, 1876.

4. The *Hindu Ranjiká*, of the 1st November, writes:—One may easily conceive how judicial officers of the lower grade are encouraged in their arbitrary proceedings by the indifference of the higher authorities in revising them. The attention of our rulers ought to be directed to the manner in which officials in the mofussil conduct their business; and enquiries should be made as to whether litigants are, by such neglect, subjected to any inconvenience; and whether the objects of the law are fulfilled or not. Owing to the absence of such inquiry, we often hear of the injustice and irregularity of proceedings of the courts in the mofussil; and, in order to check such evils, we consider it highly necessary that the Justices of the High Court should make annual tours into the mofussil to inquire into the manner in which business is carried on.

HINDU RANJIKA,
November 1st, 1876.

5. The same paper condemns the present system of serving summonses issued by the Civil Courts; and asks why parties to a suit should be obliged to send a man with the chappassie in order to point out the person to

HINDU RANJIKA.

be summoned ; this must entail enormous trouble and inconvenience or the suitors. Even in cases where the person summoned is well known to the chappassie, he asks for a man to accompany him. It is, therefore, extremely necessary to alter or amend such a vexatious rule. We hope the authorities will direct their attention to the subject.

BHARAT MIHIR,
November 2nd, 1876.

6. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 2nd November, writes that, in the amended Civil Procedure Code, some serious alterations are proposed with reference to the execution of decrees. By these alterations, matters will be made more easy for judgment-debtors, who will not be very anxious to liquidate their debts. But as, on the one hand, it is the duty of the Government to save debtors from the oppression and avarice of their creditors, so, on the other, creditors ought to be protected from the loss of their legitimate dues. Every section of the community should be held equal in the eye of the law. No party ought to be allowed to gain any advantage at the sacrifice of the other. We acknowledge that the system under which decrees have been hitherto executed is somewhat hard and cruel ; and no intelligent man in Bengal will deny that it is necessary to amend the rules respecting them. The grossly inadequate price at which the debtor's property is sold at execution sales, the reduction of the cultivator to abject poverty, the ruin of many great houses, and the rising of new zemindars cast a grievous stain on the Act for the execution of decrees. But why should the money-lenders be charged with guilt on account of the ruin brought on inconsiderate debtors ? We, indeed, heartily dislike the exorbitant rates of interest demanded by them. But, notwithstanding this, it is not reasonable to enact any laws, which would throw difficulty in the way of commerce, by seriously interfering with the loan or free use of money.

BISHWA SUHRID,
November 1st, 1876.

7. The *Bishwa Suhrid*, of the 1st November, writes the following in an article headed " Native Judges" :— The mere proposal to appoint natives to District Judgeships has called forth a loud cry of indignation from the Anglo-Indian community, and especially Anglo-Indian editors. It is not yet known, with any degree of certainty, through whose generous exertions even so much as the proposal has been sustained. It has, however, provoked a good deal of opposition ; and the chief objection, against the promotion of natives to Judgeships, is based on a supposition that the common people place no confidence in them. But this is entirely a novel and erroneous presumption. On the contrary, suitors have the greatest confidence in their integrity. This fact might be ascertained by the authorities, if measures were adopted to obtain their opinions. The Native Newspapers, which may be supposed to represent the feelings of the native public, are unanimous on this point. It is, moreover, quite impossible, in the nature of things, that the people should prefer raw and inexperienced English Judges to competent and experienced natives.

MOORSHEADABAD
PRATINIDHI,
November 3rd, 1876.

8. The *Moorsheadabad Pratinidhi*, of the 3rd November, makes the following observations on Act VIII of 1876 :—Sir Richard Temple is so indefatigable in writing minutes, that it has become really difficult to keep pace with the successive numbers of the *Calcutta Gazette*. We propose, however, to offer a few remarks on Act VIII of 1876, which was passed in September last, with a view to facilitate the partition of estates. The Act says nothing about the ameens, who are generally appointed by Government to conduct the work of partition. They are a most unprincipled set of men, given to merciless extortion ; and it would be but bringing ruin on parties claiming partition, if the task of surveying and drawing up plans of their lands were entrusted to them. For in that case, the wealthier party

would be sure to gain their ends. In our opinion, the Act will be considerably improved by providing for the abolition of the post of ameen.

9. In reference to the subject of the Berars, the same paper makes the following remarks :—India has been doubtless considerably benefited by the British Government; but it is a matter of regret that we have occasionally had reason to suspect the honesty of its measures. In our opinion, careful enquiries should be made into the Nizam's claims; and if he is clearly entitled to them, they ought to be restored, and the reputation of Government be preserved unsullied. The approaching Imperial Assemblage at Delhi offers the most favorable occasion for doing this act of justice.

MOORSHEDABAD
PRATINIDHI,
November 3rd, 1876.

10. The *Moorshedabad Patriká*, of the 3rd November, dwells on the impropriety of holding a Grand Imperial Assemblage at Delhi at this time when considerable tracts of country in Southern India are threatened with famine, and the finances of the Empire are laboring under a depression. The money intended to be spent on the Durbar may be more profitably laid out in relief operations in the distressed localities.

MOORSHEDABAD
PATRIKA,
November 3rd, 1876.

11. The *Grámbártá Prakáshiká*, of the 4th November, comments on the expensiveness of the Indian Civil Service, and regards it as a reproach to the British Government that it should continue.

GRÁMBÁRTA
PRAKÁSHIKA,
November 4th, 1876.

12. The same paper complains that many leading zemindars of Bengal and other deserving persons—worthy gentlemen—have not been invited to the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi. The coldness, with which editors of native papers have been passed over, is sorely grievous to them.

GRÁMBÁRTA
PRAKÁSHIKA.

13. A correspondent of the same paper notices the prevalence of fearful oppressions in sub-divisions Chooadanga, Meherpore, and Jhinidah committed on the tenantry by the indigo-planters and rice mahajuns, to whose rapacity and extortion the chronic poverty and misery of the cultivators in these parts may be traced. They force these poor men to take advances of grain even when they do not need it.

GRÁMBÁRTA
PRAKÁSHIKA.

14. The *Hindu Hitoishini*, of the 4th November, accounts for the larger profits obtained last year from the tea gardens in Cachar, where none but European concerns can flourish, on the supposition that the European managers spend but little towards paying the laborers, who are extremely over-worked and often cruelly oppressed. If it were not for their oppressions, and the terror they exercise over the minds of the laborers, and the cheap and almost gratuitous labor which they command, the tea and indigo industries would be far from lucrative.

HINDU HITOISHINI,
November 4th, 1876.

15. The *Sahachar*, of the 6th November, writes :—On perusing the reply of the Lieutenant-Governor to the memorial of Nayan Tárá Chaudhurani against Mr. Kirkwood, we are led to the conclusion that Sir Richard Temple has willingly and knowingly given encouragement to oppression. The confidence we had in His Honor has been removed by this act. Even the petty officers under him now fearlessly act as they please. God knows when Bengal shall be saved from such an unrighteous policy.

SAHACHAR,
November 6th, 1876.

16. In an article headed, "The English and the Natives of India," the same paper writes :—The English express great regret that the natives of this country no longer show signs of attachment to them as before; that they now hate them, and even grow indignant at the very mention of an English name; and, indeed, such has now become the feeling of the public. But it

SAHACHAR.

has doubtless been caused by the repeated acts of oppression and injustice committed by our rulers on our helpless countrymen. To repay affection with obedience and love is but natural; but harsh and unkind behaviour will rouse up a spirit of retaliation and make the mildest refractory. They are sadly mistaken who think that a conquered people are to be ruled by the sword only, and that the more despotic the power exercised towards them, the firmer would be the foundation of the kingdom. The people of this country are never ungrateful. They are even ready to sacrifice life for one from whom they have received the smallest benefit. But who can patiently and silently endure continued oppression and injustice?

SAMACHAR,
November 6th, 1876.

17. In one of its editorial notes, the same paper writes, that malarious fever has prevailed most fearfully in Connaghur and other villages in its vicinity. The sight of the most miserable condition of these villages produces simultaneous feelings of terror and sorrow in the heart of the spectator. Will the Government take no steps to save 70 or 80 thousand people from the jaws of death?

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
November 7th, 1876.

18. A correspondent of the *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 7th November, notices a fearful outbreak of malarious fever in the villages of Garalgacha, Kishnapur, Baluhati, Jagadishpur, Byegachi, Banjhati, and adjacent localities which are some ten or twelve miles to the west of Calcutta. His Honor is besought to send medical aid to these distressed places without delay.

**SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,**
November 9th, 1876.

19. The *Samáchár Chandriká*, of the 9th November, urges on Government the advisability of stopping the preparations that are being made in connection with the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi. The movement is really inopportune at the present time, when dire famine threatens considerable parts of the country in Southern India.

**AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
November 9th, 1876.

20. The *Amrita Bazar Patriká*, of the 9th November, makes the following observations on the Land Registration Act, 1876. In passing this Act, Government has been doubtless actuated by a generous motive, though it has not failed to cause some anxiety to the public. Hundreds of laws have been passed since the British Government gained the power in India, and the rulers have ever sought to make them attractive to us. Many a time consequences, quite the reverse of what was promised at the outset, have followed. This often breeds suspicion in our minds regarding the intentions of our rulers. Professing to fix the relations and define the rights of landlords and tenants, Government ruined them both by passing Act X. In their efforts to confer peace and security by enacting the Criminal Procedure Code, they have taken away what of peace and security they once enjoyed. Professing to facilitate internal trade by the imposition of the road cess, Government has in practice curtailed its expenditure on the village roads, which are now worse than ever. In short, the establishment of law courts has materially interfered with the peace and good will which formerly existed in the country. Heaven alone knows whether crimes have increased or diminished by the creation of Magistrates, the police, and jails; but it is a fact that, though there is now no longer to be found any daring robber like Bishwa Nath Baboo, there is also, on the other hand, a scarcity of honest and upright men. Hence professions have now begun to generate suspicion. For Mr. FitzJames Stephen professed to benefit the people of India when he passed the new Criminal Procedure Code. The plea was the same with Sir George Campbell, when he enhanced the rigors of the jails; and our rulers shed tears of affection for the people when they sought to strike at the root of high English education. Government now declares that this Act (Land

Registration Act) will considerably diminish litigation ; but the people suspect that it will afford a pretext for resuming all revenue-free lands, or that, not content with levying the road cess, the Act will furnish Government with an opportunity of imposing a new tax.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 11th November 1876.

JOHN ROBINSON,

Government Bengali Translator.

*List of Native Newspapers received and examined for the Week ending
the 11th November 1876.*

No.	Name.	Place of publication.	Monthly, weekly, or otherwise.	Date.
1	"Howrah Hitakári"	... Bethar, Howrah	Weekly	29th October 1876.
2	"Sádháraní"	... Chinsurah	Ditto	29th ditto.
3	"Sambád Bháskar"	... Calcutta	Ditto	30th ditto.
4	"Hindu Ranjiká"	... Beauleah, Rajshahye	Ditto	1st November 1876.
5	"Bishwa Suhrid"	... Mymensingh	Ditto	1st ditto.
6	"Bhárat Mihir"	... Ditto	Ditto	2nd ditto.
7	"Burdwan Pracháriká"	Burdwan	Ditto	20th & 27th Oct. & 3rd Nov. 1876.
8	"Pratikár"	Berhampore	Ditto	3rd November 1876.
9	"Moorshedabad Patriká"	Ditto	Ditto	3rd ditto.
10	"Moorshedabad Pratinidhi"	Ditto	Ditto	3rd ditto.
11	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	Ditto	3rd ditto.
12	"Grámbártá Prakáshiká"	Comercolly	Ditto	4th ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitoishiní"	Dacca	Ditto	4th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Ditto	Ditto	5th ditto.
15	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	Ditto	6th ditto.
16	"Sulabha Samáchár"	Ditto	Ditto	7th ditto.
17	"Amrita Bazar Patriká"	Ditto	Ditto	9th ditto.
18	"Samáchár Chandriká"	Ditto	Daily	4th to 9th November 1876.
19	"Sambád Prabhákar"	Ditto	Ditto	25th October to 3rd November 1876.
20	"Sambád Púrnachandrodaya	Ditto	Ditto	6th to 8th November 1876.
21	"Bangavidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto	Ditto	6th November 1876.
22	"Jám-Jahán-numá" (in Persian)	Ditto	Weekly	3rd ditto.
23	"Urdu Guide" (in Urdu)	Ditto	Ditto	4th ditto.

Bengal Secretariat Press.

